

AMENDMENTS TO AND LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for decreasing cartilage abnormalities in an animal in need of such decrease ~~which comprises~~comprising systemically administering to said animal a cartilage abnormality decreasing effective amount of a combination of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of A~~method in accordance with~~ claim 1 wherein the animal ~~is prevented from having or~~ has a condition selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteochondrosis, degenerative joint disease, synovitis, bacterial purulent arthritis, osteoarthropathia, and psoriatica.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of A~~method in accordance with~~ claim 1 wherein at least one sulfur containing amino acid is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, DL-methionine, D-cysteine, L-cysteine, DL-cysteine, D-cystine, L-cystine, DL-cystine, S-adenosylmethionine, betaine, beta-hydroxy analog of methionine, and manganese methionine.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of A~~method in accordance with~~ claim 1 wherein the minimum quantity of amino acid is about 1.2 wt % and the minimum amount of manganese is about 50 ppm of the daily diet sufficient to satisfy the nutrition needs of the animal.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of A~~method in accordance with~~ claim 1 wherein the administration is oral.

6. (Original) A composition suitable for systemic administration to a animal comprising a cartilage abnormality decreasing amount of a combination of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese in association with a carrier.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of~~in accordance with~~ claim 6 wherein at least one sulfur containing amino acid is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, DL-methionine, D-cysteine, L-cysteine, DL-cysteine, D-cystine, L-cystine, DL-cystine, S-adenosylmethionine, betaine, beta-hydroxy analog of methionine, and manganese methionine.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 6 wherein the administration is oral.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 6 wherein the minimum quantity of amino acid is about 1.2 wt % and the minimum amount of manganese is about 50 ppm of the daily diet sufficient to satisfy the nutrition needs of the animal.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing degradation of cartilage tissue in an animal in need of said prevention ~~which comprises~~ comprising administering to the said animal, a cartilage degradation prevention effective amount of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 10 wherein the animal is prevented from having or has a condition selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteochondrosis, degenerative joint disease, synovitis, bacterial purulent arthritis, osteoarthropathia, and psoriatica.

12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 10 wherein at least one sulfur containing amino acid is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, DL-methionine, D-cysteine, L-cysteine, DL-cysteine, D-cystine, L-cystine, DL-cystine, S-adenosylmethionine, betaine, beta-hydroxy analog of methionine, and manganese methionine.

13. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 10 wherein the minimum quantity of amino acid is about 1.2 wt % and the minimum amount of manganese is about 50 ppm of the daily diet sufficient to satisfy the nutrition needs of the animal.

14. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of in accordance with~~ claim 10 wherein the administration is oral.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing cartilage development in an animal ~~which comprises~~ comprising administering to the said animal an enhancing cartilage development effective amount of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing disease associated with cartilage degradation in an animal ~~which comprises~~comprising administering to the said animal an enhancing cartilage development effective amount of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for treating disease associated with cartilage degradation in an animal ~~which comprises~~comprising administering to the said animal an enhancing cartilage development effective amount of at least one sulfur containing amino acid and manganese.